

# Commonwealth Comments

www.commonwealthcivic.com

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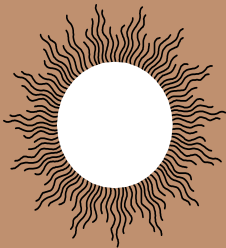
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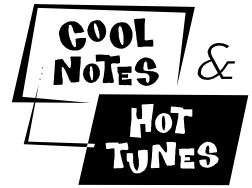
Commonwealth Comments,  
3909 St. Michaels Ct.  
Sugar Land, Texas 77479  
Tel: 281-265-4556  
email:  
newsletter@commonwealthcivic.com

## Teen Band Night



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## National Night Out Successful

The City of Sugar Land surpassed last year's number of registered get-togethers for National Night Out held on August 5th. There were more homes registered in The Commonwealth than in any other neighborhood city-wide!

Twenty-six homes registered with the city as hosts, and many more residents held parties but did not register.

Mayor David Wallace, Councilmen Michael Schiff, Jimmy Thompson, and Daniel Wong joined several homes for the festivities. The elected officials brought along several city officials, police officers, and firemen who also visited with residents.

Thanks to Gizela Palumbo and Lisa Reitz for helping to organize the parties!!!!



Above left to right are: Councilman Michael Schiff, residents Joni Verdina and Vicki Gassen, Police Chief Michael Van Court, Councilman Jimmy Thompson, David Ellison, Asst. City Manager, and Officer Ron Foster, Beat 4.



Seated are resident Karl Hauenstein and Councilman Daniel Wong. Standing, left to right, City of Sugar Land Traffic Officer, residents Vicki Gassen and Joni Verdina and Fire Chief Dannie Smith.

# Community Awareness Corner

You may have noticed the yellow tape around areas of the community clubhouse. No it is NOT a crime scene!

The Association is currently adding lights around the Knightsbridge pool and some entrances to the community. Some of the bollards in front of the clubhouse will also be replaced. Work has progressed slowly because of all of the rain, but completion is anticipated in the near future.

Please, also note that shade structures have been added to the kiddie pools at both of our pool areas. (See photo on right.) A big thank you to Jim McGregor for overseeing this project.



PLEASE remember  
**Garage Sale Signs** are **NOT** permitted in the common areas, medians, or community entrances - per our deed restrictions AND city code.

Start cleaning out your closets and cabinets! Volunteers are currently working on organizing a Commonwealth Community Wide Garage Sale. The Commonwealth Civic Association will provide advertising in the local papers and a list of participating homes to those who shop here.

The Commonwealth's Annual 4th of July celebration was, once again, a tremendous success -- **DESPITE** the rain.

Around 700 residents attended and ate hot dogs and hamburgers hot off the grill. Thanks to Hal Mechler and Britton Stein and all of their "associate grillers" for the hard and **VERY HOT** service they performed.

Residents took refuge from the rain under a huge tent provided by the Association.

There were parade trophies galore; a balloon artist, a clown, and a disc jockey to provide entertainment.

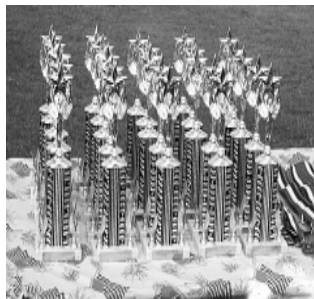
It is safe to say that a good time was had by all!!!!



*The Pit Crew*



*Enjoying the DJ*



*25 beautiful trophies and 75 metals were awarded for the best decorated bikes, scooters, etc.*

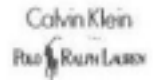


**Commonwealth's  
July 4th Celebration**





# Vision Source!



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**(Astigmatism, Color, Monovision,**  
**Bifocals & Hard To Fit)**

**Thanks to all of the wonderful**  
**volunteers who helped make our July**  
**4th celebration so successful!**

## Law Enforcement Corner

In an attempt to streamline and be more accessible to residents, the Sugar Land Police Department has done some restructuring. The Commonwealth falls into District Four. Ron Foster oversees District Four and has asked that residents with a particular neighborhood concern contact him directly at 281-275-2579. As always, in the case of an emergency, contact 9-1-1. The regular non-emergency police line is 281-275-2500

In one recent evening there were several incidents on Keneshaw Drive where cars parked in the street had their windows shot out. If you have any information on these acts of vandalism, or any other vandalism in The Commonwealth, please contact the police department immediately.



### Sugar Land Police Department

Community Services Division  
1200 State Highway 6  
Sugar Land, TX 77478  
[www.ci.sugar-land.tx.us](http://www.ci.sugar-land.tx.us)  
[rf@sugarlandtx.gov](mailto:rf@sugarlandtx.gov)

**Ron Foster**

**Office 281-275-2579**

**Fax 281-275-2623**

As you probably are aware, the city and the county are working diligently on the extension of Commonwealth Blvd. to Highway 59. While we know that this will ease traffic congestion along various routes to the highway, we are also cognizant of the fact that this opens our "back door" to many people who are not even aware that we exist. It is imperative that Commonwealth beef up its' Neighborhood Watch program. Get to know your neighbors. Exchange contact information. Remain AWARE..... An active neighborhood watch committee can protect not only your possessions, but perhaps your life!



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**Watching Out For Each Other!**



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## Association Nuts & Bolts

*Deed Restrictions/Modifications/Architectural  
Changes corner*

It is the responsibility of the homeowner who intends to make an exterior modification to first submit a modification application and have it approved before the work begins. This protects the homeowner from potential expensive re-work to meet the civic association guidelines. In addition,

the homeowner is required to apply for, and meet, all city building requirements. Modification Application forms are available from Crest Management or from our web page, [www.commonwealthcivic.com](http://www.commonwealthcivic.com).

1. Obtain application from Crest Management (or [www.commonwealthcivic.com](http://www.commonwealthcivic.com))
2. Fill out application **completely** and return to Crest Management.
3. Attach a copy of your plan with the pool and deck location and dimensions indicated.
4. Indicate on plat: site access and all drain lines as well as location of all pool equipment.
5. Backwash and drain lines must drain to the street.
6. Blueprint of pool must indicate schedule 40 PVC used for all drain lines.
7. Pool and deck must be at least 5 feet from side and rear lot lines and should not encroach on any easements.
8. Pool and deck must be within building setback lines.
9. See 9.0 in your Architectural Control Guidelines for more details.

A deposit, if needed, must be received by Crest Management before authorization for building can be given.

## Community Action Center

The City's Community Action Center (CAC) was created to provide the citizens of Sugar Land with immediate, hassle-free responses to their questions on services provided by the City. Contact the CAC for assistance with city information or services ranging from trash pick up and traffic concerns to issues with your water bill and neighborhood complaints. You may reach the CAC office Monday-Friday from 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. at 281-275-2489.

## Trash Pick-Up Reminder

Please do not place your trash at the curb until the evening before your pick up day. (Garbage is never a pretty sight.)

If you utilize a lawn service, please be sure that they place the cuttings behind your fence until the evening before the pick up. Per the deed restrictions, trash containers are to be returned to the back yard before dark on the day of trash pick up.

Due to the fact that we have "runaway" dogs and wild life occasionally roaming our streets, please be sure that your trash is secured so that it may not be spread around on the ground by animals that pass by during the night.

## Email Problem

If you have signed up for our Email Alert Program (see page 11 for more information) you know that it is not abused/overused and that enrollees receive valuable information on a regular basis.

If you have signed on to the program but have not received any email from the Association over the past month or two, please contact Paula Stansell at: [commonwealth@stansellweb.com](mailto:commonwealth@stansellweb.com) Paula has been experiencing some difficulties, especially with AOL users and the mail has been returned without your knowledge. Because no phone number had been requested by the Association, she has no way of letting you know there is a problem.

Please follow up on this by sending Paula your name and telephone number.



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Getting To Know You.....



Michael Schiff was elected to the District 4 City Council position in the May, 2003 election. He had been appointed to fill the remaining time on David Wallace's position when he was elected to Mayor in May, 2002.

Spring has sprung. Fall has fell. Summer's here and it's hot as usual. FBISD schools are back in session and family schedules are readjusting. Through this newsletter I have a wonderful opportunity to get to know the residents of The Commonwealth and help you get to know me.

The Commonwealth showed their civic responsibility by turning out more voters than any other precinct in the City! You can be very proud of yourselves. I realize that Karyn Dean was one of your own and is loved and respected throughout your neighborhood. Over the next two years, I hope to demonstrate to you that I, too, care deeply about you, your neighborhood, your concerns and your interests.

I am originally from New York and was raised in Washington, D. C. I received my BA from American U in Communications and my MBA from the Wharton Graduate School of Business. I spent 20 years in the oil and natural gas business, exiting in 1996 when I sold Coastal Energy Group, which I founded in 1989. I've been involved in corporate mergers and acquisitions and for the past five years I have been an independent investment advisor.

My wife, Jan, has been active in Fort Bend public schools as a volunteer for nearly 20 years. Last year she took a "real job" as the Volunteers in Public Schools (VIPS) Coordinator for FBISD. Jan, our two children, and I all believe strongly in the importance of "giving back" to our community. We have been, and remain, active in many not-for-profit activities.

For this issue of Commonwealth Comments, I will highlight some of the many activities or issues that I feel you should be aware of. City Council is currently ending it's budget cycle. We have reviewed and discussed revenues (taxes and fees), operating and maintenance expenses, and capital budget issues. If the city's budget process or specific budget issues are of interest to you, please visit the city's website: www.sugarlandtx.gov.

This year, due to the slow down in sales tax revenue growth, the city, for the first time in about ten years, is faced with making some tough programmatic decisions. For various reasons, including the desire to provide funding for new positions in the police department, and to keep staff salaries competitive, and continue with necessary infrastructure projects, the city is considering cutting one officer from the Fort Bend Narcotics task force and three from the Kids 'n Cops Program. These are programs that I, personally, believe are both impor-

tant and successful, yet their effectiveness is difficult to measure. Therefore, I will be working with other Councilmembers and staff to try to find alternative providers of these programs, or alternative funding sources.

In the interest of safety, the city has prepared an Emergency Preparedness Guide that simply and clearly describes what to do in case of various types of emergencies. It describes how to make a plan, when to shelter in place versus evacuation, what supplies you should have, important phone numbers and radio stations that can provide you with information and help. The Guide, which includes many other pieces of information, is free and available at City Hall.

The City of Sugar Land, in conjunction with the Fort Bend Economic Development Council and the University of Houston has recently announced a public-private sector effort called the Texas Energy Center. Patterned after the Texas Medical Center, it is intended to be based at the U of H Sugar Land campus and will be a cluster of research organizations, major corporations and universities concentrating on clean energy development.

Recently, ground was broken for the new city Hall, which will be a three story, 82,000 square foot building in Town Square, across from the new Marriott Hotel. The new City Hall is scheduled to be completed by November, 2004. The project is budgeted at \$18 million - paid for by nearly \$5 million in cash reserves and about \$13 million in debt. There should be no impact on the tax rate as a result of this project.

Council is in the process of selecting people to fill positions on our various Boards and Commissions. The groups exercise a number of advisory and quasi-judicial powers and functions that are essential or useful to the operation of an effective government. Some examples of these groups are: Planning and Zoning, Zoning Board of Adjustment, Municipal Airport Joint Zoning Board, Parks Board, or Animal Control. For people with finance or business backgrounds, there are also the Sugar Land Development Corporation (4A) or the Sugar Land 4B Corporation. You can get more information on these boards and commissions on the city's website mentioned above. These are excellent forums for interaction and input whether or not you actually serve on the board or commission or merely attend their meetings.

If you have any questions on these or any of the myriad of other topics of concern to our City, please feel free to contact me either through the City at [mschiff@sugarlandtx.gov](mailto:mschiff@sugarlandtx.gov) or my personal email [michaelsschiff@hotmail.com](mailto:michaelsschiff@hotmail.com). I encourage your involvement.

## **Kinard Dance School**

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For information call: 281-980-1886

**Director - Carolyn Kinard Reese**  
15510-J Lexington Blvd.

*(In First Colony Between Hwy. 6 & Williams Trace)*

## **Making an A+ for Alzheimers**

Plans are well underway for Fort Bend AWARE's third annual Memory Walk which will take place Saturday, October 25, 2003 at 8 a.m. in front of the AMC First Colony 24 theatres. This year's honorees are Helen and Roy Cordes. Helen is currently battling the disease.

Memory Walk 2003 will include a 5K walk for adults and children and their four legged friends, as well as a 1K walk.

For more information about Memory Walk 2003 or Fort Bend AWARE, contact Alexis Montle at 713-266-6400 ext. 121.

# Notes from the City of Sugar Land Neighborhood Meeting

In July, HOA Director Paula Stansell and newsletter editor Sue Hauenstein attended the City's quarterly Neighborhood Meeting as representatives of The Commonwealth.

City officials and staff were introduced by Paul Hoffman, Assistant City Manager. Police Chief Michael Van Court introduced the Crime Prevention Officers present and some program updates were given. It was also pointed out that crime information (as well as a great deal of other information) is now available on the city's crime prevention page. Sabine Kuenzel, City Planner, gave an update on the Land Use Plan which guides decisions for zoning, etc. There is a draft map on the city's website which can be linked from the Association's website: [www.commonwealthcivic.com](http://www.commonwealthcivic.com).

Tract 5, which is closest to First Colony and is next to the University of Houston, will have the greatest affect on life in The Commonwealth. Paula is trying to arrange a meeting with the city so that we can be apprised of plans for the tract and the full impact on us.

The next meeting is in October and The Commonwealth will be represented.

## Before an Emergency Strikes!

### Create an Emergency Plan:

- If disaster strikes your household, you may not have much time to act. Prepare now.
- Hold a family meeting and discuss the dangers of fire, severe weather, and other emergencies.
- Explain how you want your family members to respond.
- Find the safe spots in your home for each type of disaster.
- Discuss what to do about power outages and personal injuries.
- Plan escape routes from each room in case disaster strikes.
- Post emergency numbers near the telephone.
- Teach children how to dial 9-1-1, police and fire.
- Pick two emergency meeting places - one near your home in case of fire and one outside your neighborhood in case you can't return to the neighborhood.

*More ideas in future newsletters*

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**Sat** 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.



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## Communication IS the Key

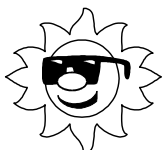
I work diligently to bring you useful information and schedules of upcoming events in a timely manner. Commonwealth Comments is a remarkable tool for getting valuable information out to residents. Everyone benefits from its' existence. I need your help!

Please let me know what you would like to see in this newsletter. Articles on particular subjects? More information on particular issues? Less information on particular issues? What do you like/dislike about our newsletter? All constructive criticism is welcome!

We are very fortunate that the Association is so supportive of this newsletter. Let's make the best of their commitment to getting information to you in a timely fashion!

Sue Hauenstein  
[newsletter@commonwealthcivic.com](mailto:newsletter@commonwealthcivic.com)  
281-265-4556

*If you have a neighbor who is not receiving this newsletter (or is receiving more than one!!!), please let us know.*



Page eight

## The I Survived the Summer Back-To-School Coffee was a success.

About 20 residents visited and shared refreshments at the August coffee.

Shown below are a few of the people in attendance.



### Special thanks to:

**Virginia Mack, ReMax Southwest** for providing the coffee and accoutrements  
**Cynthia Liska, ReMax Heritage**, for providing the beautiful fruit platter and cake  
**Sue Hauenstein** for the cold drinks  
**The Commonwealth Civic Association** for so generously supporting and encouraging our events and for the baked goods at the coffee.

If you are willing to work the September or November election - **FOR PAY** - contact Paula Stansell. Flexible hours are available.

You may reach Paula at [Commonwealth@stansellweb.com](mailto:Commonwealth@stansellweb.com) for more information.

# Notes from FBISD Superintendent

*The following information is taken from an article written by Dr. Betty Baitland, Superintendent of FBISD.*

The national No Child Left Behind legislation has focused the entire country on the accountability issue. I believe that our focus on "accountability" goes far beyond test scores. According to our TAKS results, over 99% of FBISD's third graders are reading on or above grade level. However, our focus is on the importance of teaching much more than just the information measured by the state tests.

This year is a crucial one for our district as we take a new bond referendum to voters on November 4. We have worked hard since last February's bond referendum defeat to listen to people and hear their feedback on how we might modify the bond package in a way that our community can support, even though our needs have not changed.

We expect our enrollment to reach nearly 62,000 students this year. This referendum will address that growth and also underscore our commitment to provide all of our students with a solid education. Included in the referendum will be projects to build new schools, refurbish older ones, and significantly improve technology district-wide.

Some changes in our attendance zones will be made, because we will be opening a new elementary school in the fall of 2004. We will probably be looking at all of our attendance zones, to make any necessary shifts to manage growing enrollments at some schools. When we do determine which areas need to be studied for possible changes, parents at those campuses will be notified and will be given the opportunity to participate in our zoning process.

In closing, we would like to encourage parents and community members to sign up for a new e-mail newsletter, **FBISD Upd@te**. You may sign up by visiting the school district website at [www.fortbendisd.com](http://www.fortbendisd.com) and click where it says "FBISD Upd@te." It is a quick, reliable way to get the latest news from the district sent straight to your email account. Visit the website often, it is full of helpful information. The campus websites are a great way to keep in touch with your child's school.

If you have any questions, or comments, send them to the district email address: [cr@fortbendisd.com](mailto:cr@fortbendisd.com).



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**COMMONWEALTH RESIDENT**

## September Election

Fort Bend County residents will be returning to the ballot box three for three this fall. The September election is a referendum on constitutional amendments.

In October, Missouri City residents will vote on a bond referendum, and in November residents will be able to make their voices heard on the Fort Bend ISD bond referendum.

Wording on the constitutional amendments on the September ballot can be found at [www.governor.state.tx.us/divisions/press/proclamations/proclamation.2](http://www.governor.state.tx.us/divisions/press/proclamations/proclamation.2) or visit our web page: [www.commonwealthcivic.com](http://www.commonwealthcivic.com)

**Commonwealth residents will be voting at the Commonwealth Clubhouse in this election,**

## VOTE

**Expected Enrollment in FBISD schools  
for 2003-2004 is just under  
62,000 students  
(seven years ago it was under 47,000)**

## The Tax Rate

The School Board has voted to lower the school district tax rate by .0125¢

The City is hoping to lower the tax rate from 32.886¢ to 32.584¢

# You'll Wonder Where the Yellow Went.....

Rain, drought, rain drought. There is going to be a fungus among us this fall. St. Augustine grass is susceptible to this fungus. Treat with Terrachlor or Bayleton.. Also make sure the blades on the mower are sharp. With the rain/drought we have experienced, it is a good thing to adjust your irrigation system to fit the need. During dry spells, 2-3 times a week should be adequate for established lawns and certainly during the week long daily rain periods, the system can be temporarily shut off. Just remember to turn it back on!!!

Late summer means watch for chinch bugs in your St. Augustine. They cause patches in the lawn that appear to be drying out, no matter how much watering is provided. By looking closely, you might spot the little black and white critters. They are about the size of an ant and smell like a stink bug when crushed. Treat with a granular insecticide according to label directions, if you have them. They can destroy a lawn.

Begin planning your fall plantings of trees, shrubs and annuals. And if you love home grown tomatoes, the fall is the easiest time to grow them. Get them started right away and enjoy them in October through December.

Fall is a great time for planting. While the plant doesn't grow over the winter, the roots of most plants and trees grow year round. Planting in the fall will give plants 6-8 months of root growth before the heat of the next summer hits.

Watch out for the school kids and enjoy your great outdoors!

*This information was provided by Britton Stein, Commonwealth resident and owner of Crenshaw Landscapes  
281-980-2733*

**Ads in Commonwealth Comments are available at very reasonable rates. If you would like to advertise, call Sue at 281-265-4556.**

**Susan Menapace Delclos, DMD, MDS, PA**

*Orthodontist*

2869 Dulles Avenue (next to CiCi's Pizza)

281-261-2504



**Henry Delclos, D.D.S., Pediatric Dentist**

2225 Williams Trace Blvd., Ste 206

281-265-4177



**The Commonwealth celebrates July 4th!!!**



## Upcoming Meetings

### Landscape Committee Meeting

Meets once a month. Call Steve O'Hara at 281-265-4485 for the next meeting date and time.

### Modifications Committee Meeting

Third Tuesday of each month - 7:30 p.m. at the Clubhouse

*Modifications to be considered at the monthly meeting must be received by Crest on or before the 2nd Monday of each month.*

### Board Meeting

Fourth Thursday of each month - 6 p.m. at the Clubhouse

### CAT Meeting

Please call Tom Wooley for information on the next CAT meeting.

### **TEEN BAND NIGHT FRIDAY, OCTOBER 10 THE COMMONWEALTH CLUBHOUSE**

\* Please note that this is a change of date!!!! \*

[www.commonwealthcivic.com](http://www.commonwealthcivic.com)

## Commonwealth Alert

In an effort to be proactive in keeping our residents abreast of events that directly impact our community, The Commonwealth Civic Association maintains a web page, updated by residents Paula and Charles Stansell, and overseen by the Association. (You can visit the web page at [www.commonwealthcivic.com](http://www.commonwealthcivic.com)). In order to be even more effective, the Association has initiated a Commonwealth *e-mail Alert* available to all residents who wish to sign up.

It is important to note that the Association will **NOT** be sharing these email addresses with any commercial ventures and **NO ADVERTISING** (or jokes!!!) will be forwarded. This email network is **STRICTLY** for alerting/providing information for our residents regarding matters that the Association feels is important to the daily lives of Commonwealth residents.

If you are interested in being added to this list, please send an email to: [commonwealth@Stansellweb.com](mailto:commonwealth@Stansellweb.com) Include your name and a telephone number.

## Attention Advertisers!!!

This newsletter is published in January, March, May, July, September and November. The deadline for each issue is the first day of the previous month. Ads and payment must be received by that date. All Ads must be mailed to **Commonwealth Comments, 3909 St. Michaels Ct., Sugar Land, Texas 77479** and must include a check for full payment. Ad rates begin at \$55.00 per issue.

If you have any questions, call Sue at 281-265-4556.

## Special Interest Groups

### The Commonwealth Women's Club

The Commonwealth Women's Club is open to all women residing in The Commonwealth. The club's purpose is to stimulate civic, philanthropic, educational, and cultural interest in the community, as well as foster a cordial welcome to new residents. Volunteer outreach is available to those who are interested. If you are interested in this group, or would like more information, please contact Susan at 281-980-3290 or Donna at 281-265-7108.

### Hispanic Club

If you speak Spanish and are interested in joining this informal group, contact Lucy at 281-265-2610, for information, date and location.

### Moms in Touch

Moms in Touch is a group of mothers who meet for one hour each week to pray for their children and the school they attend. If you are interested in joining us, please contact: Debbie Glasscock (Commonwealth Elementary) at 281-980-4118; Sheryl Poole (Fort Settlement Middle School and Clements High School) at 281-491-4690; Mary Marwil (Elkins High School)

**If information about your group is incorrect or outdated, please advise Sue at 281-265-4556.**

If you are interested in publicizing a Commonwealth-based special interest group, give us a call.

The Commonwealth Civic Association does not investigate, qualify, or certify this newsletter's advertisers. The business of each advertiser is independent of the Association.

•

## Crest Management Service

16360 Park Ten Place,  
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Houston, Texas 77084

Carolyn Bonds, Senior Manager  
281-579-0761  
281-579-7062 (fax)



Last pool day  
September 14

[www.commonwealthcivic.com](http://www.commonwealthcivic.com)

Postmaster: Dated Material!  
Please deliver to current resident as soon as possible

### Association Board of Directors

**Tom Wooley**  
281-265-1734  
President

**Zelma Loeb**  
281-980-7741  
Vice President

**Paula Stansell**  
Treasurer  
281-579-0761

**Jim McGregor**  
281-980-1661  
Director

**Steve O'Hara**  
281-265-4485  
Director

### Association Information

Clubhouse & Pool Rentals  
*Crest Management* 281-579-0761

Neighborhood Watch  
*Gizela Palumbo* 832-264-3520

Welcome Committee  
*Maura Ritchie* 281-980-6347  
*Roseann Pisano*

Landscape Committee  
*Steve O'Hara* 281-265-4485

Modifications & Deed Restrictions  
*Dan Lumpkin* 281-265-6709

Tennis Committee  
*Cindy Facker* 281-207-5129

L.I.D. Representative  
*Mike Homeyer* 281-980-3794

Newsletter email address:  
[newsletter@commonwealthcivic.com](mailto:newsletter@commonwealthcivic.com)

PRESORTED STANDARD  
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### Important Phone Numbers

Crest Management	281-579-0761
Police (Non-Emergency)	281-275-2500
Animal Control	281-275-2596
Fire Department	281-491-0852
Water & Street	281-275-2750
Trash Collection	281-275-2772
Recycling Coordinator	281-275-2770
Street Lights (Centreport)	713-207-2222
Newsletter	281-265-4556
<b>Police &amp; Fire Emergency</b>	<b>9-1-1</b>

Deadline for next  
Commonwealth Comments -

**October 1, 2003**

**A world of resources at your fingertips:**  
[www.commonwealthcivic.com](http://www.commonwealthcivic.com)  
email: [commonwealth@stansellweb.com](mailto:commonwealth@stansellweb.com)